

Appln. No. 10/023,071
Amndt. dated October 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated October 6, 2004

R E M A R K S / A R G U M E N T S

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The October 6, 2004 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims 1-7 and 9 are amended, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 112

In the Office Action claims 1-9 are rejected under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner states that the feature of "causing at least part of the interaction with the user to take place substantially in the associated language" is an obvious statement.

In response, claim 1 has been amended to remove the above feature. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-9 under

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35 USC 112, second paragraph, has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over the publication "Language Identification With Embedded Word Models" (Ramesh et al.).

In response, claim 1 is amended to clarify the invention. Claim 1 recites a method for enabling a user to interact with an electronic device using speech, the electronic device being capable of interacting with the user in multiple languages. The method includes defining a set of activation commands for activating or controlling the electronic device, the set of activation commands including at least one activation command in each language supported by the electronic device, receiving speech input from the user, recognizing at least one voice command in the speech input, determining whether the recognized voice command is in the set of activation commands and if so, activating or controlling the electronic device in accordance with the recognized voice command, determining the language of the recognized voice command, and setting a language attribute of the electronic device based on the language of the recognized

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voice command. The language attribute determines in which language the electronic device interacts with the user, i.e., receives speech input, provide audio feedback and/or provide video feedback. The recognized voice command thus has dual functions of causing the activation or control of the electronic device and automatic setting of the language attribute of the electronic device to facilitate interaction with the electronic device in the language spoken by the user.

In the invention, a set of activation commands is defined to include various commands which relate to the electronic device being controlled. The set of activation commands includes one or more commands from each language supported by the device (see page 7, lines 1-11) so that recognition of a command in the user's speech can be used to both activate or control the electronic device and upon determining the language of the recognized command, set a language attribute of the electronic device.

The language attribute of the electronic device determines the language in which the electronic device interacts with the user, e.g., via an interacting mechanism or device such as a speech recognizer, audio playback device or video display device. If the interacting device is a speech recognizer, the language

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attribute causes the speech recognizer to load a set of control commands in the recognized language. The electronic device can also provide audio and/or video feedback in the recognized language once the language attribute is set (see page 5, line 33, to page 6, line 1).

Ramesh et al. do not disclose a method including all of the features recited in claim 1.

Ramesh et al. describe a language identification system in which a subset of commonly used words for a particular situation in different languages is defined and speech input is compared to the subset of words. An identification of the language being spoken is obtained based on the speech input.

In contrast to the present claimed invention, Ramesh et al. does not relate to the activation or control of an electronic device capable of interacting with the user in multiple languages. Thus, Ramesh et al. does not disclose, teach or suggest defining a set of activation commands for activating or controlling the electronic device with the set including at least one activation command in each language supported by the electronic device. As such, Ramesh et al. cannot disclose, teach or suggest determining whether the recognized voice command is in the set of activation commands and if so, activating or

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controlling the electronic device in accordance with the recognized voice command.

Moreover, Ramesh et al. do not disclose, teach or suggest setting a language attribute of the electronic device based on the language of the recognized voice command, this language attribute being used to determine the language in which the electronic devices enables interaction with the user. Rather, in Ramesh et al., the language identification system is designed merely to identify the language being spoken and does not contemplate interaction with the speaker.

In view of the foregoing, independent claim 1 is patentable over Ramesh et al. under 35 USC §103(a).

The other references of record do not close the gap between the present claimed invention as defined by claim 1 and Ramesh et al. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over all of the references of record under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

Claims 2-9 are either directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1 and are patentable over the references of record in view of their dependence on claim 1 and because the references of record do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in claims 2-9.

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NEW CLAIMS

New claims 10-20 are added to the present application.

Claims 10-19 are dependent on claim 1 and further define the method of claim 1. Claims 10-19 are patentable over the cited references in view of their dependence on claim 1. Claim 20 is a second independent method claim related to the method of claim 1.

Claim 20 is patentable for reasons, inter alia, set forth above in connection with claim 1.

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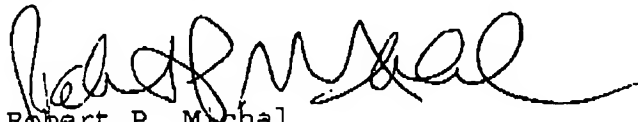
If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

Entry of the amendment, allowance of the claims, and the passing of the application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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